

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
WASHINGTON WATER POWER SPOKANE RIVER
UPPER FALLS HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT

HAER
WASH
32-SPOK,
5-

HAER No. WA- 162

Location: Spokane River, ^{approx.} 0.5 mile northeast of intersection of Spokane Falls
Boulevard and Post Street, City of Spokane, Spokane County, Washington

U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute Spokane NW, Washington, quadrangle Universal
Transverse Mercator coordinates: 11:468380.5278540

Date of Construction: 1921-1922

Engineer: V.H. Greisser, Chief Engineer, Washington Water Power Company

Builder: Washington Water Power

Present Owner: Washington Water Power
1411 East Mission
P.O. Box 3727
Spokane, WA 99220

Present Use: Hydroelectric production and electrical transmission

Significance: Completed early in 1922, the Upper Falls Hydroelectric Development (HED) is among the last of the hydroelectric developments built by Washington Water Power (WWP) on the Spokane River. The single vertical shaft turbine-generator unit is the first installed in any HED on the Spokane River, and it is among the first installed in the West. Constructed principally to supply the city of Spokane with a dependable and adequate source of alternating current (AC) electricity, the Upper Falls HED facilitated the growth and development of Spokane, Washington. The Upper Falls HED is also important in providing flood control for the city. Spokane is the largest city in eastern Washington State. The Upper Falls HED was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.

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